

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 12 - 23 is acknowledged. Furthermore, by the present amendment, claim 13, which stands objected to, has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner such that the objection to this allowed claim should now be overcome.

Also, by the present amendment, claims 1 - 11, which stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al (USPAT 6,078,375) in view of Sunohara et al (USPAT 5,596,435), and claims 8 and 9, which stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al and Sunohara et al in view of Yoneya et al (USPAT 5,928,733), such claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, thereby obviating the stated rejections. Accordingly, in view of such amendment, discussion of the cited art to the canceled claims is considered unnecessary.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, only allowed claims 12 - 23 in which claim 13 has been amended to overcome the objection thereto remain in this application and applicants submit that this application should now be in condition for allowance and request issuance of a notice of allowance.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing

of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135
(503.39601CX1) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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